The Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30)

"It will be as when a man who was going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one—to each according to his ability. Then he went away. Immediately the one who received five talents went and traded with them and made another five. Likewise, the one who
received two made another two. But the man who received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money.

After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the additional five. He said, 'Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.' His master said to him,
'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.' Then the one who had received two talents also came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two talents. See, I have made two more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant.
Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.'

Then the one who had received the one talent came forward and said, 'Master, I knew you were a demanding person, harvesting where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter; so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground. Here it is back.' His master said to him in reply, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter? Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return? Now
then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten. For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.'"

© 2024
Catholic Online - Catholic.org

The Message

The Parable of the Talents calls believers to recognize the importance of using their God-given gifts and opportunities to serve God and others. It teaches that faithfulness in small things leads to greater responsibilities in God's kingdom and that inaction or fear of failure is not an excuse
for neglecting one’s duties. The parable encourages a proactive and diligent approach to life, reminding believers that they are accountable to God for how they use what has been entrusted to them.

© 2024
Catholic Online -

Understanding the Parable

The Parable of the Talents is rich in meaning and offers important lessons about the Christian life:

1. The Talents: In the context of the parable, a "talent" was a large sum of money, but it also symbolizes the various gifts, opportunities, and responsibilities that God gives to each person according to their abilities.
2. Stewardship and Responsibility: The servants are entrusted with the master's property, representing how God entrusts people with gifts, time, and resources. The first two servants are commended for their diligence and faithfulness in using their talents to produce more, symbolizing how believers should use what God has given them for His glory and the good of others.
3. The Consequences of Inaction: The third servant, who buried his talent out of fear and laziness, is condemned for failing to use what was entrusted to him. This illustrates the serious responsibility believers have to use their gifts and opportunities wisely, rather than letting them go to waste.
4. Judgment and Reward: The parable emphasizes that there will be a time of reckoning when each person will have to account for how they have used what God has given them. Those who have been faithful will be rewarded with greater responsibilities and the joy of sharing in God's kingdom, while those who have been negligent will face judgment.

© 2024
Catholic Online -